

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-6, 9, 13-14, 16 and 18 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 13-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Gilhousen (U.S. Patent Number 5,280,472) in view of Komara (U.S. Patent Number 6,088,570) and further in view of Wheatley (U.S. Patent Number 5,577,265). Claims 6, 9 and 18 were allowed.

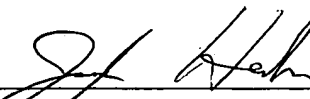
Applicant has canceled the rejected claims 1, 5, 13-14 and 16. Applicant has also added new claims 19-23, which are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, and which all ultimately depend from allowable claim 6. Claims 6, 9 and 18-23 are now pending.

Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the remarks above, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests such action. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (312) 913-3331 with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP

Date: 12/29/06

By: 
Joseph A. Herndon
Reg. No. 50,469